

Election ‘26 In Full Swing

Breakfast Features NYS Assembly, Senate Candidates

The decisions made by state legislators in Albany can have a profound effect on local businesses and the Chamber’s next breakfast meeting will feature the candidates for the state Senate and Assembly.

Candidates for the 41st and 51st Senate and 103rd Assembly have been invited to meet with business leaders from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. on Sept. 29 at The Venue Uptown at the Kingston Regency Inn, 503 Washington Ave. in Kingston. The breakfast sponsor is Northwell Health.

Chamber President Ward Todd said the candidates will speak and answer questions from Chamber members. Todd will moderate with assistance from the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region. The election is Nov. 3.

“We want our members to be educated on all issues coming out of Albany,” Todd said. “We hope everyone comes out to hear what these candidates have to say and to bring their questions.”

“Their policies matter and the direction they want to take the state is important for business leaders.”

The 41st Senate District race pits three-term incumbent Michelle Hinchey, D-Saugerties, against Republican Patrick Sheehan, who lost to Hinchey in 2024. He also lost a bid to unseat Assemblywoman Sarahana Shrestha two years earlier.

A Saugerties native and former executive in the technology and media fields before entering politics, Hinchey is the daughter of the late U.S. Rep. Maurice Hinchey. She is the Chairwoman of the state Senate’s Agriculture Committee.

Sheehan, a local business owner, is the former director of business development in Ulster County. He also worked as a prosecutor in Queens County and realtor.

The 41st Senate District includes the city of Kingston and the

Ulster County towns of Ulster, Saugerties, Esopus, Woodstock, Kingston, Shandaken, Rosendale, Plattekill, Marlborough, Lloyd, New Paltz, and a portion of the town of Hurley. Most of Northern Dutchess County and all of Greene and Columbia counties.

The 51st Senate District races features Republican Assemblyman Chris Tague of Schoharie against Democrat Michele Frazier of Delhi. Both are trying to succeed Republican state Sen. Peter Oberacker, who vacated the job to challenge U.S. Rep. Josh Riley for the 19th Congressional District seat.

Tague secured the GOP nomination with a hard-fought primary win over former Ulster County Legislature Chairwoman Terry Blosser-Bernardo. A former dairy farmer and stone quarry executive, Tague was first elected to the Assembly in 2018 and was re-elected in 2020, 2022 and 2024.

Frazier, who unsuccessfully challenged Oberacker in 2024, grew up in Oneonta and later served on the Oneonta City Council. She is a local realtor and teaches political science to college students at SUNY Delhi.

The 51st Senate District includes the Ulster County towns of Olive, Marbletown, Rochester, Gardiner, Shawangunk, Wawarsing, Denning, and Hardenburgh and a portion of the town of Hurley. Other counties in the district are Sullivan, Otsego, Delaware, and Schoharie and parts of Broome and Chenango.

The 103rd Assembly District race includes two-term incumbent Shrestha, D-Esopus, against Saugerties Republican Santos Lopez.

Assemblymember Shrestha has notified the Chamber that she will not be attending the event, according to a statement from her office, “The campaign has a rule around not attending ticketed



BREAKFAST

Meeting



candidate forums.” Shrestha is the first native of Nepal to ever serve in the state Assembly and is a prominent member of Mid-Hudson Valley chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America. A former climate activist before entering politics, she came into prominence in 2022 when she defeated longtime Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, D-Kingston.

Lopez, a Filipino immigrant and Navy veteran, is a marketing executive for Orange County Choppers, featured in the popular reality television show. He served as a Navy hospital corpsman and is an advocate for veterans, first responders and young people.

The 103rd Assembly District includes the city of Kingston and the towns of Esopus, Gardiner, Hurley, Kingston, Marbletown, New Paltz, Olive, Rosendale, Saugerties, Ulster and Woodstock in Ulster County. The district also crosses the Hudson River into Dutchess County to take in the towns of Red Hook and Rhinebeck.

Chamber Breakfast Meetings are a great way to stay on top of current events and connect with other local business leaders. Reservations are required. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door for Chamber members (\$45 for non-members.) For more information, contact the Chamber at (845) 338-5100 or go online at www.ulsterchamber.org.

Northwell Health is September’s Breakfast Sponsor

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Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie continues to be a regional leader in advanced care, with specialties in cardiology, oncology and neurology. Its expert teams and modern facilities help patients get the care they need close to home. The hospital also offers a wide range of outpatient services, making it easier to access care without a hospital stay.

Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck complements this with a more intimate setting and strong focus on wellness. Known for its family-centered birthing center and comprehensive orthopedic care, the hospital

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Twaalfskill Offers More Than Golf

See It All At The Chamber Mixer

John Burlingham, a member of Twaalfskill’s board, said the clubhouse and its many amenities offer a relaxing social atmosphere and an event venue. Members can enjoy cocktails, weekly happy hours, and dinner specials at what some call Kingston’s best-kept secret. Jeremy Simon-Hughes is the chef and clubhouse manager.

“If you have a baby shower or a family event, as a member you could always use the clubhouse itself for a get-together,” he said.

“The Chamber is a member, and they have social events there from time to time,” he said. “We’re always happy to have them.”

Those amenities will all be on display at the Chamber Mixer Thursday, September 24th from 5:00 – 7:00pm at 282 West O’Reilly St. in Kingston. Chamber Members are urged to carpool for this event, since parking is somewhat limited.

The Mixer sponsor is Rebuild Together Hudson Valley.

Burlingham, a former Chairman of the Chamber’s Board of Directors, said Twaalfskill hosted a Mixer last year and it was a huge success.

“We had such a really good turnout the first time and the Chamber liked the way it turned out, so we decided to do it again,” he said. “This time we’re doing it in the fall because we actually start taking on new members for next year and they can start playing this year.”

Burlingham said Chamber members can get a discount on a membership for golf, or they can sign up just to be a social or pool member. Twaalfskill has close to 300 members.

“It’s a private club so everyone who’s a member actually owns part of the club,” he said.

The Mixer itself will feature complimentary refreshments as

well as a putting contest. One of the prizes will be a Twaalfskill membership. Attendees can look over the gorgeous views of the course from the club’s deck.

“We’re also planning to have tours of the course. If someone wants to go out there, we’ll take them out on the course on golf carts,” said Burlingham.

The Twaalfskill Club, founded in 1902, markets itself as one of the country’s oldest continuously operated golf courses and the only private course in Kingston. Burlingham said the club was founded by golfers coming up from New York City looking for a place to play.

Designed in the Penal style of the 1920s, the course features “devilish small greens,” “tight landing areas” and a course “carved by nature,” according to the club’s website.

Twaalfskill offers five golf leagues ranging from youth to senior. Jeff Schaller is the club professional, and Greg Johnson is the club superintendent.

The club’s members also have access to a 60-by-35-foot outdoor pool, a 20-by-15 kiddie pool, and golf lessons from a PGA pro. During the winter months, members gather for food and to watch football, golf, and more.

Twaalfskill can be reached at (845) 331-5577 or at twaalfskillclub.org.

Chamber Mixers are a great way to network and promote your business. Be sure to bring plenty of business cards. Mixers are open to Chamber Members 21 years of age and older. There is no charge for Chamber Members to attend but reservations are required. Call (845) 338-5100 or register online at www.UlsterChamber.org. Prospective Members



Sept. Mixer
Thurs., Sept. 24
5-7 pm

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interested in attending, please contact Jess Davis (845) 338-5100 x4 or Jess@UlsterChamber.org.

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Chamber To Honor Area’s Best Businesses & Business Leaders

Registration Is Open For Awards Dinner October 22nd

Michael Feiden, Vice President of Earl B. Feiden’s Appliance at 661 Broadway in Kingston, has been named Businessperson of the Year by the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce. He will be honored, along with seven other area businesses, business leaders and organizations, at the annual Ulster County Business Recognition Awards Dinner at Diamond Mills Hotel and BLACKBARN Hudson Valley on Oct. 22.

Earl B. Feiden Sr. founded his company in 1926. A pioneer in the appliance industry, he began in the ice and coal trade, with coal, wood stoves and ice boxes among the first products offered.

By the 1930s, electrification had spread across Upstate New York, creating new opportunities for the company. Recognizing the potential of this advancement, Earl B. Feiden Appliance began offering the latest electric appliance models.

Over the decades, the company has not only witnessed the evolution of home appliances but has been an active and integral part of that evolution for more than 100 years.

Michael Feiden represents the third generation of family leadership, ensuring the company remains a locally owned and operated business. In 1986, Michael and his family identified an opportunity to expand into Ulster County and purchased the historic building at 661 Broadway, where they continue to operate. The company has since expanded with an additional store in Clifton Park.

To enhance the customer experience, the company has also developed an Experience Center at its Latham showroom, a fully functional display that allows customers to experience features firsthand before making a purchase decision.

Now in its fourth generation, Earl B. Feiden Appliance employs more than 100 team members. Consistent with the company’s heritage, they deliver, install, and service every product they sell using their own employees, upholding a tradition that began in 1926.

As the company continues to grow, its commitment to exceptional customer service and support for the communities it serves remains unwavering. Earl B. Feiden Appliance takes great pride in its community involvement and actively supports many local organizations and events.

Other honorees at this year’s Business Awards Recognition Dinner include:

- **Business of the Year**, UHY Advisors, which is the largest certified public accounting firm in the Hudson Valley. In recent months, UHY has expanded its presence in New York by combining with RBT CPAs, a certified public accounting



practice in Lake Katrine and Hudson, which delivers audit, tax, consulting, wealth management and transaction advisory services. RBT, which has served the needs of businesses, individuals and nonprofits for more than 55 years, brings a team of 175 professionals to UHY, including 23 partners.

- **Small Business of the Year**, Artisan Beauty Bar is an Aveda Exclusive salon located 284 Wall St. in Uptown Kingston. Owner Eden Selle credits her success to her use of the Aveda line of natural, vegan and eco-friendly hair and skin-care products.

- **Tourism Business of the Year**, the Ashokan Center, a 385-acre nature preserve in Olivebridge which attracts travel visitors from all over

the country for retreats, weddings and events. Its mission is to inspire learning and build community through shared experiences in nature, history, music and art. Throughout the year, the Ashokan Center hosts school field trips, festivals, concerts, summer camp, wellness retreats, square dancing, guided hikes and themed events like Bluegrass camp, banjo weekend and its acclaimed Summer and Winter hoots.

- **Community That Cares**, YMCA of Kingston and Ulster County, a nonprofit community service organization, which offers everything from group fitness classes to yoga and Pilates to senior strength training and pickleball instruction. In addition, the YMCA offers basketball and pickleball leagues, a large indoor track for walking, personal training, massage therapy, swimming lessons, leadership and educational programs and myriad youth enrichment activities.

- **Heritage Award**, C & C Unisex at 1204 Ulster Ave., Kingston, a salon that was founded by Camillo Iovieno in 1981 in the Hudson Valley Mall. Camillo, known as ‘Mike’ by his legions of customers, was born in Italy in 1946 and came to the United States when he was 17. His parents settled in the Bronx, where he later became a baker and attended barber school in the evening. He opened his first barber shop in Plattsburgh in 1980. Today, Iovieno and his partners, Guisepppe Iovieno and Donato D’Angelo, operate multiple salons in Saratoga, Yorktown Heights, Danbury, Waterbury and New Jersey. They moved from the Hudson Valley Mall to their new state-of-the-art building, which they built, in 2022. Iovieno’s daughter, Concetta, is the manager of the Kingston salon and district manager at the other locations. Her brother, Pasquale, is a master barber and assistant manager at the Kingston salon.

- **Len Cane Heart of Ulster County (posthumous)**, Dave Gagnon left behind a legacy of service, leadership and devotion to his family, community and country. He was a

managing partner at Gagnon and Associates and served as past Chairman of the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce. He also served as Council President of the Rip Van Winkle Council and District Vice President of the Rip Van Winkle District Executive Council. His military career spanned 35 years in the New York Army National Guard. His service included a combat deployment to Iraq and training missions in Israel, South Africa, Brazil and Peru. He also served during the response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and Hurricane Sandy. David also devoted more than three decades to the Cottekill Fire Department, where he served as Fire Chief and Assistant Chief. He died in the line of duty on July 3, 2026.

- **Chamber Champion**, John Naccarato, owner of Naccarato Insurance, 100 Ulster Ave., Saugerties, has long been a supporter of the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce. For 15 years, Naccarato Insurance has been the Presenting Sponsor for the Buy Local Expo (now known as the ExpoMixer). He also serves on the Chamber Board of Directors and has, over the years, sponsored numerous Chamber events.

The awards presentation will take place Thursday, Oct. 22, at Diamond Mills Hotel and BLACKBARN Hudson Valley, 25 South Partition St., Saugerties. Cocktails will be served at 5:30 p.m. with dinner and the awards presentation following at 6:30 p.m. For sponsorship opportunities, contact Chamber President Ward Todd at (845) 338-5100 or Ward@UlsterChamber.org.

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Thursday September 10 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm

YUP Meet Up @ Arts Society of Kingston (ASK)
97 Broadway | Kingston, NY

There is no charge to attend, but registration is required.

Wednesday September 16 | 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Buy Local Expo Mixer
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Thursday September 24 | 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Networking Mixer @ The Twaalfskill Club
282 West O’Reilly Street | Kingston, NY

There is no cost for Members and Prospective Members. Reservations are required.

Sponsor: Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley

Tuesday September 29 | 7:30 - 9:00 am

Chamber Breakfast Meeting
Meet The Candidates for NYS Senate & Assembly
The Venue Uptown at the Kingston Regency Inn
503 Washington Avenue | Kingston, NY

Sponsor: Northwell Health

Thursday October 22 | 5:30 pm Cocktails 6:30 pm Dinner

Business Recognition Awards Dinner
Interested in Sponsorship Opportunities?
Contact Ward Todd 845.338.5100 x2

More Info and Registration UlsterChamber.org
Questions (845) 338-5100

ChamberNews

The official publication of the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce is a special advertising section to the Daily Freeman, PO Box 4470, Kingston, NY 12402 – A Media News Group publication

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Category: Education/Tutoring
Description: *Woodstock Day School is a progressive, independent school serving students from Nursery through Grade 12 in New York's Hudson Valley. WDS combines strong academics with creativity, curiosity, collaboration, and meaningful relationships. Students are encouraged to think critically, explore their interests, take intellectual risks, and engage with their community in a supportive environment where they are known, challenged, and inspired to grow.*

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